

Now, ending his career with another national championship, Coach Red Hill retires a legend. I commend Coach Hill and the ABAC Tennis program for their success.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House of Representatives had the opportunity to pass sensible gun safety laws to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles and criminals, and to make our communities safer—but we didn't.

When we debated the bill, I supported the McCarthy amendment because it contained common sense proposals that would have closed the gun show loophole, banned large capacity ammunition clips and required child safety locks on newly purchased handguns.

After that amendment was defeated, I voted against the final version of the gun bill because its background check provision would have given criminals the opportunity to buy guns at gun shows and it would have weakened our current background check laws. The final House bill would have made it easier for a criminal to purchase handguns, and that was unacceptable.

As I have gone door-to-door talking with people and visiting schools in my district, there is no doubt that people overwhelmingly support common sense laws to keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals. My constituents don't care about politics. They care about whether their children are going to be safe when they are at school. And as a father of two children in public schools, I understand their concerns.

Those concerns were eloquently expressed in a letter I received from Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was one of the students murdered at Columbine High School. I am attaching his letter to this statement, and I urge all Members of the House—particularly the leadership of the Judiciary Committee—to review it carefully as we move toward a conference with the Senate on the Juvenile Justice legislation.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HEFLEY, MCINNIS, SCHAFFER and UDALL: I am Tom Mauser, father of Columbine High School victim Daniel Mauser. While I do not live in your district, as an advocate for common sense gun laws I have heard from people from all over Colorado through a web site I've set up in honor of my son (www.danielmauser.com). These people have expressed fear about the safety of their children. Many believe in common sense gun laws, and though they don't speak with the intensity of NRA members, I think their voices should also be heard.

I urge you to pass the Juvenile Justice bill now before the House with the gun control amendments as passed by the Senate intact. Please don't water them down, don't create more loopholes, and don't approve poison pills that would deter passage.

There are those who think I am singularly focused on gun control. No, in ALL of my public appearances I have clearly stated that there are many factors that are responsible for the tragedy at Columbine and other schools (lack of parental oversight, lack of

value placed on human life, violence in the media, etc.) However, addressing these cultural factors will take time. Most must be addressed by families and communities, not Congress. One of the only major things Congress can do is to tighten loopholes and reduce children's access to guns. So the question is, will you show leadership to address this one action you can take? Or will you pretend that the status quo is okay?

I urge you once again to pass the Juvenile Justice bill with the gun control amendments passed by the Senate. If you are unwilling to do so, I ask you to ponder these questions: What useful purpose is there for the semi-automatic weapons like the one used to kill my son? Why do we need imported gun clips holding more than ten bullets, like the one used to kill my son? How many more school shootings or how many more gun deaths would there have to be before you would put aside concerns about 'bureaucratic burdens on gun owners' and vote against the NRA and for common sense gun laws? How many???

On my son's web site I will place your voting record on this issue. Just as the NRA pressures you and holds you accountable, so too will I. In just 12 days since it began, the web site has had well over 5,000 hits, and I expect more as time goes on. I hope you will honor Coloradans and our God by doing the RIGHT thing.

I encourage you to visit my son's web site (www.danielmauser.com) so you'll be reminded of the human costs of these tragic shootings. I welcome your response to this letter, as would the thousands of Coloradans logging on to the web site.

Sincerely,

TOM MAUSER.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN FRANCIS KELLY, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional United States Marines officer, Colonel John Francis Kelly. Next week, Colonel Kelly completes a highly successful four year tour as the Marine Corps' Liaison to this body. It is a pleasure for me to recognize a few of his many outstanding achievements.

A native of Brighton, Massachusetts, John Kelly initially served in the United States Merchant Marines until 1969. On September 10, 1970, John Kelly dedicated himself to the service of this Country by enlisting in the Marine Corps. Upon graduating from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina in November 1970, he was designated as a Rifleman and conducted training with the Infantry Training Regiment, until February 1971. Due to his exemplary performance, he was meritoriously promoted ahead of his peers to the grades of Private First Class, Lance Corporal, Corporal, and Sergeant. He was discharged from the Marine Corps in September 1972. Soon after graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Colonel Kelly was commissioned as a Marine Corps Second Lieutenant, in November 1975.

Then, Second Lieutenant Kelly reported to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, for six months of basic officer training. Upon his graduation from that school, John Kelly reported for duty with the Second Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served as a Platoon Commander, a Rifle Company Executive Officer, an Assistant Operations Officer, and Commanding Officer of a rifle company. In November 1977, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. Subsequent non-Fleet Marine Force assignments from 1979 to 1984 included service as the Executive Officer for Marine Detachments, aboard the USS FORRESTAL and the USS INDEPENDENCE, and as the Ground Officer Assignment Monitor at Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, DC. During this time, he was promoted to Captain. He also graduated from Georgetown University in 1978, where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security Studies.

In June of 1984, Captain Kelly was assigned to the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, and he commanded both Rifle and Weapons Companies. Upon being promoted to the rank of Major, John Kelly served as the Battalion's Operation Officer. In June 1987, Major Kelly was transferred to Quantico, Virginia, where he was initially assigned as the Section Head, Offensive Tactics at The Basic School. In April 1988, Major Kelly was assigned as the Officer in Charge and Chief Instructor at the Marine Corps Infantry Officer Course, also located at Quantico, Virginia. He held this position until August 1990, at which time he was reassigned as a student at Marine Corps Command and Staff College and later to the School for Advanced Warfighting. In June 1992, Major Kelly transferred to the First Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, and he assumed the duties as Commanding Officer of the First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

John Kelly arrived for duty as the Marine Corps' Liaison Officer at the House of Representatives in June of 1995. In this capacity, he has been instrumental in providing the Congress with in-depth knowledge of the Marine Corps. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Colonel John Kelly has come to epitomize those qualities that we as a Nation have come to expect from our Marines—absolutely impeccable integrity and character, as well as professionalism.

John Kelly was promoted to Colonel, at a ceremony in which I had the honor to participate, at the House of Representatives in July 1998. His personal awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Mr. Speaker, John Kelly has served our Country with distinction for the past twenty-six years. As he continues to do so, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him, his lovely wife Karen, and their three children, John Jr., Robert, and Kathleen, much continued success in the future, as well as fair winds and following seas.